

“Hunger: A Matter of the Heart”

Children’s Sermons

Week One: A Heart for Our Neighbors

Acts: 2:44-47a

⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

(Prop needed: large paper heart—one side says “Love God”, and other side says “Love Your Neighbors”)

When the church first started up after Jesus died on the cross and had risen from the dead, folks had a hard time knowing what to do. Peter and other apostles gave them some advice. What do you think they were told to do?

Kids’ response

Peter told them if they truly loved God they needed to repent and be baptized so they would receive the Holy Spirit. (*Show them the heart with “Love God”.*) Once that happened the believers would meet together to learn, fellowship, worship, and pray. As they grew in their faith what do you think happened?

Kids’ response

(*Turn the heart over to “Love Your Neighbor”.*) The believers’ hearts were touched, and they became generous. They began to truly love their neighbors and gave to all who were in need. They cared for the goodwill of all the people. As we love God and grow in our faith with worship, study, and prayer we are also called to love our neighbors. How can we care for others?

Kids’ response

(*Share some ideas if they get stuck.*) Those are some wonderful ideas. Remember as you go about your daily routine to take some time to care for others. We can share God’s love with our neighbors as we help them with their needs. Let us close our time together with a prayer:
Dear God, we are called to love you and to love our neighbors. Help us care for their needs. Amen.

Week Two: A Tree and Its Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

⁴³ “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

(Prop: pieces of fruit)

Look at what I have here. How many of you like fruit?

Kids’ response

What is your favorite fruit?

Kids’ response

A lot of our favorite fruits grow on trees. If the tree is good and healthy it will produce good fruit. If a tree is not so healthy, it will produce bad fruit. What helps a tree be good so it can produce good fruit?

Kids’ response

Right; water, sun, and soil with nutrients help a tree produce good fruit. In Luke we hear that a good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good. What helps a person be good so their heart produces good?

Kids’ response

Staying close to God by reading the Bible and praying are key. A lot of times we hear about the fruit of the spirit. God’s spirit working in us helps us be faithful. What are some of the fruits of the spirit?

Kids’ response

(Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)

As we continue to grow in our faith by remaining close to God we will continue to do good for others. Our heart will be filled with the spirit of God. We will do God’s work with our hands.

Let us pray:

Dear God, thank you for helping us be faithful so we can produce good works to help others from a pure heart. Amen.

Week Three: The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-21a

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table;

(Prop: an alarm clock with a snooze button)

Do you use an alarm clock to wake up in the morning?

Kids’ response

A lot of alarm clocks have a button called a snooze button. When your alarm goes off you can hit that button and go back to sleep. In about ten minutes, the alarm will go off again. Maybe it is nice to get that extra sleep, but there are some problems with snooze alarms. The first is that if you keep on hitting the snooze, you may be late or miss out on something completely. The second problem is that if you keep hitting the snooze, you may get so used to the sound of the alarm that you don’t even hear it and you will sleep right through the alarm. Did either one of those problems happen to anyone?

Kids’ response

Did you know that God sometimes sounds a "wake up" alarm in our lives? He speaks to our hearts and says, "It is time to wake up and follow me." Some people hit the snooze button and say, "Not now Lord, call me again—a little bit later." Some people hit that "snooze" so many times that they get to where they don’t even hear God’s voice. When they finally wake up, it may be too late. That is what happened in our Bible story today. Jesus told a story about a rich man who wore the finest clothes and lived in luxury. A beggar named Lazarus lay outside the rich man's gate. Lazarus was hungry and he was hoping that the rich man might have pity on him and give him the leftovers from the rich man's table. But every day the rich man passed by Lazarus without even giving him a thought. I imagine that he passed by Lazarus so many times that he eventually got to the point that he didn't even see him at all. Lazarus was the rich man’s alarm to help those in need. God is sending "wake up" calls to people today. Let us pray that we will listen to his voice and help others in need:

Dear God, when you sound the alarm telling us it is time to wake up and follow you, may we never be guilty of hitting the snooze alarm saying, "Later, Lord." Instead, let us rise up and help those in need. Amen.

(Modified from sermons4kids.com – The Rich Man and Lazarus)

Week Four: The Plumb Line

Isaiah 28:16 - 17a

Therefore thus says the Lord God, see, I am laying a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: “One who trusts will not panic.” I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plummet.

(Prop: building blocks and a plumb line)

(Start by building a block wall with a helper or two) Who likes to build with blocks?

Kids’ response

Some times when I build with blocks my walls fall down because they are not set up correctly. They start to go crooked. *(Show the plumb line.)* Does anyone know what I have here?

Kids’ response

It is called a plumb line. Builders use it to check the straightness of a wall. When you build you need to make sure that your walls are set up properly and straight. In the verses from Isaiah we hear that justice and righteousness are that line for our faith. If we are just and right then our faith is straight on. We are doing what we are called to do. What do justice and righteousness mean to you?

Kids’ response

Justice and righteousness can be about fairness and doing what is good for all. Sometimes it is hard to be fair and just. That is where the foundation stone comes in. When you are building, your foundation needs to be strong. In Isaiah we also hear about the cornerstone which sets the sure foundation. Who are they speaking about?

Kids’ response

Christ is known as the cornerstone. He is what holds us all together and makes us strong. If your foundation is not strong, then what ever is built upon it can crumble. Therefore we are to build our life of faith on Christ. He is sure. If we build our life on Christ then we can withstand whatever comes. Our faith in Christ then can help us to do what is just and right. If we struggle then we just need to come back to that sure foundation that we have in Christ. Let us pray:
Gracious God, thank you for Christ the cornerstone of our lives. As we build our life on Christ we will be made strong in our faith. Out of that faith help us strive for justice and righteousness. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Week 5

Luke 24: 30-32

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

(Prop: whole loaf of bread)

In the scripture of Luke we hear about a time after Jesus’ death when he appeared to some of his disciples. They walked along the road talking to him, but did not realize who they were speaking to. It was not until after he broke bread with them that they realized it was Jesus. Where in church do we use bread?

Kids’ response

Right, in communion. We break the bread and share it with all who are present. It is a time for us to remember what Christ has done for us. What are some things that Jesus did when he was here on earth?

Kids’ response

Great! Jesus did a lot of wonderful things while he was on earth. He was sent to reveal who God was and to save us all. As we share in the breaking of the bread at communion our eyes turn to Christ giving his life for the redemption of our sins. Just like the disciples’ eyes were opening and hearts burning in them, our hearts are set afire to share Christ with others. The disciples ran to tell others their news. How do we share Christ with others?

Kids’ response

As this Lenten season comes to an end remember what you have learned and tell others about Jesus. Help those in need and spread God’s love. Welcome others to the communion table so they can share in the glorious gifts that God has given us. Let us pray.

Gracious and giving God, thank you for Christ who offered himself for our sins. As we break bread together help us see Christ. Let our hearts burn in us to tell others about you. Amen.

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